

1 March 2015

“...to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light...”

- Acts 26:18

## Why Do We Do What We Do?

**“The many ...live by a one word motivation...revenge.”**

**Why do we feed the poor?  
They stink. Why do we care for  
widows and orphans? They have  
diseases and miseries of every kind.**

Why do we go to dangerous and semi-closed countries to evangelize and disciple the persecuted? We could get a disease or be killed.

Why do we do all that?

Because they are souls for whom Christ died. And He gave Himself for us. And for them. We love and serve them with the same love with which



**Mother and baby singing and worshipping at Jahim's new church plant outside Juba, South Sudan.**

Christ loved us, when *we* were stinky and miserable and dangerous. We want to see their hearts changed and the blessing of God on their lives.

Here are two examples:

### South Sudan

South Sudan won its independence from Sudan in 2005. But in a very short time the tribes in the world's newest country, most notably the Dinka and Nuer, began to fight with one another for control of the country. The country claims to be a Christian nation, and 95 percent of its citizens claim to be Christians, yet tragically civil war is raging. The many South Sudanese people live by a one word motivation...revenge. When you have a godless society, void of Biblical principles and Biblical leadership, the society settles down to the lowest common denominator and in this newly formed country revenge is an overall driving force that has no bounds or ends in humanist thinking. They have sought revenge for insults and injuries and injustices



**Refuge camps create difficult living for widows and orphans due to the lack of medicine and 116+ degree temperatures.**



of the past. Foreign aid and oil profits flow into South Sudan, but ungodly leaders believe it belongs to whomever holds power, leaving little for the people. The cost of living has risen due to un-Biblical financial models of getting and spending as



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## POLAND

Andrew Gorski shares the following special report.



*"You have probably heard Gospel Joy choir visited Atlanta and Knoxville in January. It was an awesome trip! We are very thankful to God and all hosts and organizers for their work, hospitality and love!"*

*"God surprised us in Atlanta by allowing us to meet Dave Williamson, producer and arranger of the gospel music CD (Alvin Slaughter's "Yes"), thanks to which the entire ministry of Gospel Joy started in 1998! This was an absolute God connection. Dave had no*



Dave Williamson

*clue his work had such an impact in Poland. He wrote me an e-mail, which I think is probably the best short description of our ministry that anyone has put together. Here it is:"*

***'What a fantastic weekend! Our choir***

***and our people loved it!!***

***I am still trying to fully comprehend what has happened. An album which I arranged and produced with a great singer and man of God, together with my choir, finds its way to Poland because you grabbed it out of a bargain bin in Boston. Your sister, who already loves Gospel music, falls in love with the record. Though not yet a Christian, she***



Gospel Joy Choir



much as you can get by with and no one is safe from gangs, criminals, soldiers or angry relatives.

Lawlessness and chaos reign. Life has become so bad, so scary, we are told that the people "on-the-ground" whisper they long



**Jahim didn't plan on starting a church so soon, but when you have so many converts, they need a place to grow.**

for the former days under Islamic rule, where life was harsh but there was some standard of behavior. It reminds us of Israel after God delivered them from slavery in Egypt. After wandering in the wilderness, they remembered "the good old days" of eating leeks and onions, even though it was in slavery. The South Sudanese, like the children of Israel, wanted their perception of stability and safety, rather than God's best in their lives. After decades of fighting their common enemy, the Islamic north, the citizens now fight each other. In go missionaries and support personnel from ITMI.

Why do we do this? ITMI does it to see hearts changed.

ITMI Director Steve Evers recently traveled with national church planter and missionary Jahim Buli to a refugee camp in the Juba area of South Sudan. Steve also preached in Jahim's newly planted outdoor church how God will meet all of our needs for work, comfort in suffering, endurance with a difficult leadership, marriage, etc. There was a woman in the crowd who felt he was speaking to her directly. Her situation was similar to what Steve was preaching. She saw the contrast of the revenge and hate-fueled

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**South Sudanese women grateful for a church home where they can worship.**



**starts a choir that is unique in Poland. Over the years, she finds Jesus as her Savior and Lord. The choir grows, and shares Jesus. Members of the choir find the Prince of Peace, as do hundreds (thousands?) who hear and experience them.**

**What a sense of humor God has! What unpredictable ways He has of fulfilling His plans. And years later, I reap an additional blessing!"**

"It's amazing how God works, isn't it?"



Word Zone Home Groups

## South Sudan

Each month it is difficult to decide which of the many stories to share with our ITMI team. This story came in just at press time and it will warm your heart and have you wanting more details. We hope to give you the "rest of the story" in an upcoming ITMI Monthly. We'll share Jahim's own words:

*Please, allow me to share this with you and rejoice with me. Most of you might know that I got separated from my mother and brother 20 years ago [during the civil war in Sudan]. I [haven't] known where my mother and my brother are. All these years I keep on praying for them for God's protection and for their salvation.*

*Today at 4:30pm my time I receive a phone call from Renk town an hour by air near border with north Sudan and this is the area where [currently] there is fierce battle between government of South Sudan and the rebels.*

*I am thankful to God today for His wonderful work he did to me. God promised not to ashamed or disappoint those who wait upon him. For first time after 20 years I was able to speak to my mother on phone. I have just communicated with her. She has 3 children, one is now 13 years old and he was forced to join an army (child soldier).*

*God willing, I will bring them down to Juba to stay with we. She has told me stories how God protected her [and] the children in the recent fight[ing] - the man that was with her, was kill[ed] in war between the government and the rebels.*

Jahim asks all of us to unite with him and praise God for this answer to prayer after 20 long years. Since he was 11 years old and just separated from all family, Jahim has faithfully prayed for his mother's safety and salvation. He hopes to soon, very soon share with her need for a Savior. Please pray that she will see and know the God that has cared for her for the last two decades.

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Jahim praises God for HIS mighty blessings and for HIS touching and changing lives .

life of that drove her countrymen to war and subsequent refugee camps and how she had been living her life. The contrast is of life consuming anger and revenge with the forgiveness God offers through Christ. Islam does not offer this good news. Animism does not offer this either. Certainly, the corrupt officials and gangs and soldiers did not offer restoration among the people of South Sudan. Her people were more likely to abuse and pro-

nounce curses upon one another than to love with humble hearts.

Only God's way has any mechanism for forgiveness and love.

*"Bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you." Colossians 3:13*

The fact that Steve came all the way from America and taught the same message that Jahim regularly teaches made God appear truly large, powerful and capable to this woman. Her heart was revived. Forgiveness is a very profound and amazing concept to those who have never heard of it before. There was a great contrast between that woman's life in South Sudan and the life God designed for people who obey Him. She saw first hand that God is big enough to speak to her, to Americans and to His children as told in Exodus, with the same hope giving truth. Americans don't often see this shocking, fantastic contrast, due to our abun-

dantly blessed society, with not nearly the daily living needs that third-world countries experience moment by moment and day after day. The contrast, our needs in our society is many times not great enough to show us our need for utter dependence on God's protection and provision. This mama's life was changed, changed by realizing God's promise to provide, was meant for her.

## Uganda



Muhindo Kawede passionately discusses the challenges of false doctrine in the African Church.

Steve traveled to Uganda, to visit ITMI's International School of Missions (ISM), on the shore of the great Lake Victoria. This small Bible college is directed by Muhindo Kawede.

Poverty is one of the most prominent aspects of Ugandan life.

It leads to street children, twelve-year-old mothers, abandoned children, HIV/AIDS, drug-resistant sexually-transmitted diseases, little to no sanitation, highly contagious diseases, prostitution, child armies, human sacrifice, drug use, robbery, murder and financial fraud. Life seems hopeless for these people and they feel helpless to change their situation.

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**Morning transport to ISM.**

They think, "If only I had more money, my problems would be over."

What a comfort when poor Ugandans learn God will provide for them just as He feeds the sparrows and clothes the lilies. Instead of seeking "what do I get?", they learn what they can do for others. For example, when someone gives Kawede two shirts, he will give one to another less fortunate pastor, thus God blesses both of them.

*"For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."*

Matthew 6:32-34



**Steve sharing God's financial truth to ISM students.**

Steve taught a group of pastors from the Seven Areas of Life Training (SALT) materials. The lesson titled "Financial Liberty" lets people see what God thinks is good for us vs. what we think is good for us. This is opposite of the prosperity gospel, which is running rampant in Africa. The prosperity gospel is an unbiblical doctrine that teaches proper prayer, speech and donations will cause God to make Christians rich. This false gospel fits right in with many African tribal beliefs, but is not what the Bible teaches.

*"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."*

1 Timothy 6:10

In African thinking, culture says you always want to be the boss, the "Big Man", the leader, the founder or director of something. They are always seeking position...and an income stream. But after Steve's lesson, the women sat taller and began to feel empowered because they understood that God didn't need them to be rich or powerful to be loved or accepted by Him, or to be used by Him. They discovered they were just as important in God's estimation as any man. And the men, with their shoulders and heads noticeably drooping, seemed to realize that their previously held belief about money was not God's plan and they needed a whole new focus for finances.

Kawede talked with a few of the pastors after the financial teaching and gathered their feedback. He later told Steve, "the prosperity gospel is dead" among these people. He explained, saying their understanding of the Word of God changed their thinking. Now they would tell their church members the truth and those people would tell others.



**In the most humble of churches, gifts are given in the spirit of thankfulness.**

### Why do we do it?

ITMI exists to support and disciple nationals to start that ripple effect of the influence of God's Word in the hearts of people, "to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me." Acts 26:18

Won't you join us? -Steve Lee, Steve Evers



**ITMI and ISM are committed to helping the African Church.**

### For Praise . . .

1. **South Sudan - Jahim Buli** - Much thanks to God for the protection and reconnection with his mother who was lost for 20 years.
2. **India - Paul and Molly** - Much praise for God bringing the family back together after three months apart.
3. **Zambia - Tim/Ashley Keller** - Much gratitude - Kellers were able to visit with Timothy's mother in the States before her passing.
4. **Poland - Andrew/Anna Gorski** - Overwhelmed by God's rich blessings on Gospel Joy's trip to the States.
5. **Poland - Richard/Brooke Nungesser** - Deeply humbled by God's financial provision for a heavily underfunded Bread of Life.
6. **South Sudan - Vicky Waraka** - Hopeful and grateful that SALT discipleship material is to be translated into Arabic.

### For Prayer . . .

1. **South Sudan - Jahim Buli** - as he grows his home church to reach more and more hungry South Sudanese souls.
2. **India - Paul and Molly** - Pray that Molly's back will heal properly and that Harvest Bible Church will be in their new home soon.
3. **Zambia - John Jere** - Pray for John as he works through many tough issues at this season of his life and ministry.
4. **Poland - Piotr Zaremba** - Pray the physical layout for printing of the Old and New Testament translation will be completed soon.
5. **India - Paul and Molly** - Pray for wisdom, strength and God's favor as they continually face India's challenges.

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